



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/755,432	01/05/2001	Marise Chan	60001.0006US01	4762
27488	7590	03/09/2004	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			SAIN, GAUTAM	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2176	3

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/755,432

Applicant(s)

CHAN ET AL.

Examiner

Gautam Sain

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/24
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1) The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

**1-1) Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft Excel 2000 (version 9.0.4402 SR-1, copyrighted 1985-1999; hereafter referred to as 'Excel').**

In regard to independent claim 1, Excel teaches "determining the value of a number" (ie., cell values in Excel to perform calculations)(Excel, Page 1, Item 1a).

Excel teaches "reading a worldwide number format of the number" (ie., number I the formula bar)(Excel, Page 1, item 1b).

Excel teaches "reading a base format of the number" (ie., General number format as default number format)(Excel, Page 1, item 1c).

Excel teaches "using the base format and worldwide number format to render the value"(ie., general number format, custom number format)(Excel, page 1, items 1b, 1d, 1e).

In regard to dependent claim 2, Excel teaches "the worldwide number format comprises a locale identification" (ie., locale identification number) (Excel, page 2, Microsoft Excel Help screenshot).

**In regard to dependent claim 3**, Excel teaches “the worldwide number format further comprises a number shape” (ie., shrink font size to show all data in a cell, ... bold, italics,...)(Excel, page 3).

**In regard to dependent claim 4**, Excel teaches “worldwide number format further comprises a calendar type” (ie., data type)(Excel, page 4; page 1, item 1e; page 5).

**In regard to independent claim 5**, Excel teaches “receiving a category indication for the number” (ie., Format cell)(Excel, page 4).

Excel teaches “receiving a locale identifier for the number” (ie., locale identification in in a numbered folder in MS-Office that is accessible to Excel)(Excel, page 2).

Excel teaches “cross-referencing the category and locale identifier to determine a plurality of sample number formats with a plurality of underlying number formats” (ie., Format cell; Euroconvert; Options for a category in a category list)(Excel, page 4; page 6; page 1, item 1f).

Excel teaches “displaying the plurality of sample number formats” (ie., format cell list of sample dates)(Excel, page 4).

Excel teaches “receiving an indication of a selection of one of the plurality of a sample number formats” (ie., user selects a item from the sample list)(Excel, page 4).

Excel teaches “storing the underlying number format of the selected sample number format in the association with a value for the cell, wherein the underlying number format of the selected sample number format and the value for the cell

Art Unit: 2176

comprise the number" (ie., the General number format is the default number format, user can reset a number format to the General format; association is shown by changing only the appearance without changing the number)(Excel, page 1, item 1a, 1c, 1d)

**In regard to dependent claim 6**, Excel teaches "receiving the category indication from a selection from a Category dropdown menu" (Excel, page 4).

**In regard to dependent claim 8**, Excel teaches "displaying the plurality of sample number formats in a Type menu of a Format Cell dialog" (Excel, page 4).

**In regard to dependent claim 9**, Excel teaches "receiving an indication from the Type menu of the Format Cell dialog" (Excel page 4).

**In regard to dependent claim 10**, Excel teaches "a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 5" (Excel, page 1-7).

**In regard to dependent claim 13**, Excel teaches "each of the plurality of sample display formats has a corresponding underlying number format" (ie., General format)(Excel, page 1, item 1d).

**In regard to dependent claim 14**, Excel teaches "a selection of one of the plurality of sample display formats causes the corresponding underlying number format of the selected sample display format to be applied to the number" (Excel, page 1, items 1a, 1b, 1e, 1f).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2) The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**2-1) Claims 7, 11, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Excel (as cited above), in view of Microsoft Windows NT (version 3.3/4.0, copyrighted 1981-1998; hereafter referred to as "NT").**

In regard to dependent claim 7, Excel does not expressly teach, but Windows NT teaches "receiving the locale identifier from a selection from a Locale dropdown menu" (Windows NT, page 1; Excel page 2, page 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Excel to include a locale identifier in a locale dropdown menu as taught by Windows NT, providing the benefit of allowing users to easily pick locale identification numbers for language just as easily users pick the locale in Windows NT (NT page 1) and just as easily as users pick cell formats in Excel (Excel page 4).

In regard to independent claim 11, Excel teaches "a category menu comprising a plurality of number categories to select the number" (Excel, page 4).

Excel does not expressly teach, but Windows NT teaches "a Locale menu comprising a plurality of locales to select as the local identification for the number" (NT, page 1 teaches locale to select in a menu; Excel, page 2 teaches locale identification numbers).

Excel teaches “a Type menu comprising a plurality of sample display formats to select to display the number” (Excel, page 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Excel to include a locale identifier in a locale dropdown menu as taught by Windows NT, providing the benefit of allowing users to easily pick locale identification numbers for language just as easily users pick the locale in Windows NT (NT page 1) and just as easily as users pick cell formats in Excel (Excel page 4).

**In regard to dependent claim 12**, Excel in view of NT teaches “plurality of sample display formats is generated in response to a selection of one of the plurality of number categories and a selection of one of the plurality of locale” (Excel, page 4, teaches number categories and selection of one of the plurality in response to sample display; Excel, page 2 teaches locale; NT, page 1 teaches selecting a locale from a menu).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Excel to include a locale identifier in a locale dropdown menu as taught by Windows NT, providing the benefit of allowing users to easily pick locale identification numbers for language just as easily users pick the locale in Windows NT (NT page 1) and just as easily as users pick cell formats in Excel (Excel page 4).

**Other Cases**

- 3) A. Turpin et al. (US Patent 5608898, issued Mar 4, 1997).  
B. DeBiasse (US Patent Publication, Pub No US 2003/0028420 A1,  
continuation date Sep 17, 1999).  
C. Liaw et al (US Patent 6104325, issued Aug 15, 2000).


**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gautam Sain whose telephone number is 703-305-8777. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on (703)305-9792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
GS

  
JOSEPH FEILD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER